5.00 P.M.

Development have participated in this effort. And so also some NGOs have offered aid, like Dharti, a Jain Sangathan which has committed to raise 670 prefabricated structures, and NGOs like the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and the Congress Party's Sewa Dal have rendered very great help. This is what has been appearing in the Vernacular Press. Therefore, I am discussing it because the Vernacular Press is not monitored perfectly in Delhi. Therefore, I want to tell this august house that the disaster-stricken people felt very much obliged. On the occasion of Eid, the personal gesture of Madam Sonia Gandhi to provide ration to all the affected villages was very much appreciated. On the occasion of Eid, rice, sugar, etc., was distributed very promptly. It appeared in the Urdu Press there. The people of Kashmir thanked Madam Sonia Gandhi for this gesture. It was a very timely response, I must say. But, they will deserve much more. Since the channels of communications are open, I feel convinced about the work done by the Government of India and many NGOs. There was a complaint by some intellectuals, including Ms. Barkha Dutt who said that the response from NGOs was wanting in substance. I think, she was wrong because I know becuase I know so many NGOs that have been in the field and some of our very good and honest officers...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Soz, will you please sit down for a few minutes? I would like to take the sense of the House for laying the statements of hon. Ministers. The statements will be laid now and discussion or clarifications will be taken up later.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Relief and rehabilitation in the aftermath of the Jammu and Kashmir earthquakes;

Heavy rainfall and floods in various States and relief operations undertaken by the Governments;

Serial bomb blasts in Delhi on the 29th October, 2005;

Terrorists violence in Jammu and Kashmir;

Naxalite attack at the home Guard Training Centre, Giridih, Jharkhand that took place on the 11th November, 2005; and

Naxalite attacks in the Jehanabad, Bihar that took place on the 13th November, 2005

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I lay statements mentioned against my name in today's list of business on the Table of the House.

Killing of official of the Border Roads Organisation in Afghanistan

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I lay on the Table of the House a statement on the "killing of official of the Border Roads Organisation in Afghanistan."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have already decided that clarifications on all the statements would be taken up later. *(Interruptions)* We can fix the time as early as possible, that can be discussed.

GOVERNMENT BILL

The Disaster Management Bill, 2005 (contd.)

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: When I was saying that the Government of India has adequately responded to the situation of disaster in Jammu and Kashmir, I did not say, at the same time, that further aid was not required. Agencies are working. The Chief Minister is working very hard in this direction. Therefore, our special thanks to the hon. Prime Minister when he said, "if more money is needed, that will be provided."

Now, I come to the laudable measure. And I have already thanked the Government of India for providing us an opportunity to contribute, in our own humble way, in seeing how this measure can be effective in meeting disasters in future. We would pray that there should be no disasters. But man himself is responsible for creating the disasters. As the hon. Minister initially said without further elaborating, maybe he will do it when he responds to our suggestions. It is very laudable measure and the hon. Home Minister must have been thinking all these days about it. Therefore, these amendments, When he introduced the subject, he said something about acts of man, When he was discussing acts of man, he referred to biological weapons and other things that the terrorists might devise to create disruption in the society. But apart from that, we have to face the terrorists' threat and there you need to weve something into the texture of this Bill. May be in future we have a chance to go through this law once